

# TSET'S WORK TO IMPROVE RURAL HEALTH IN OKLAHOMA

The Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) was created by voters in 2000 with a constitutional mandate to support programs that improve the health of Oklahomans. The TSET Board of Directors has focused some programs on improving the health of rural residents. Rural communities often have worse health outcomes than urban areas of the state.

# **Physician Loan Repayment Program**

To improve access to health care in medically underserved communities, TSET partners with the Health Care Workforce Training Commission (HWTC) to support the Physician Loan Repayment Program (PLRP). The PLRP offers medical school loan repayment to physicians in exchange for a commitment of service in rural areas for up to four years. Through this partnership with the HWTC, 99 physicians have participated in the program and been placed in rural and underserved areas of Oklahoma.

# **TSET Healthy Living Program**

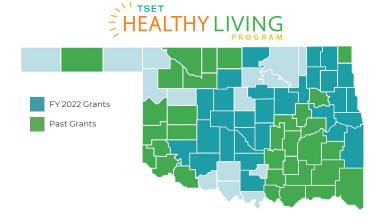
These community-based grants have been funded by TSET since 2004. The Healthy Living Program (HLP) is **designed to prevent cancer and cardiovascular disease by preventing and reducing tobacco use and obesity.** TSET currently partners with 28 organizations working in 30 counties. Previous HLP grantees passed nearly 2,300 tobacco-free and wellness policies that impacted more than 2.5 million Oklahomans.

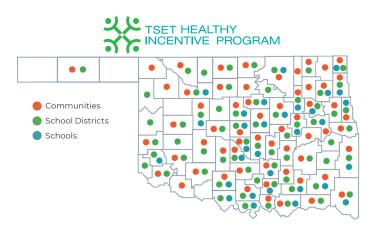
# **TSET Healthy Incentive Program**

Healthy Incentive Grants are offered to school districts, school sites and local communities throughout the state. To qualify, potential grantees must adopt health-promoting policies that encourage healthy eating, physical activity and tobacco-free lifestyles. Since the program began in 2012, TSET has awarded **over \$7.7 million in incentive grants to 195 school districts, 67 school sites and 144 communities**.

### **Physician Loan Repayment Program**











#### Targeted Achievement Grant (TAG) — Southeast

These grants were awarded in 2022 with the goal to **reduce tobacco use and obesity in southeast Oklahoma.** TAG-Southeast will build on a portion of work previously conducted by the Healthy Living Program in southeast Oklahoma. They were awarded to grantees in McCurtain and Pittsburg counties.

#### **Project ECHO**

In February, the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Center for Health Sciences was awarded \$4.5 million over three years to expand Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Care Outcomes). **This model enables health care providers in rural and underserved areas to connect with specialists** at academic medical centers via a digital platform for training and consultation. Since 2017, the OSU Center for Health Sciences has reached over 70,000 participants in all 77 counties using the ECHO model.

#### **Mobile Lung Cancer Screening Bus**

Stephenson Cancer Center (SCC) was recently awarded over \$1.7 million for a program to **increase access to lung cancer screening across the state.** The SCC plans to develop the Oklahoma Mobile Lung Cancer Screening Action Network (Oklahoma LUNG SCAN). This statewide program will enable Oklahomans to be screened in their home communities. Oklahoma LUNG SCAN will bring screening access to communities via medically equipped buses.

# **TSET Funding to the Double Up Oklahoma Program**

In 2021, over \$6 million was granted to Hunger Free Oklahoma (HFO) over three years to assist with the expansion of the Double Up Oklahoma (DUO) **grocery store program in high-need areas.** DUO provides vouchers to Oklahomans using the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) to increase opportunities to buy fruits and vegetables. For every SNAP dollar spent on fruits and vegetables, the

participants earn vouchers that can be used to buy more produce.



# TSET Built Environment and Healthy Living Innovation Grants

Two new grant categories, Built Environment and Healthy Living Innovation Grants and Discovery Grants, **fund community infrastructure improvements and programs that promote health.** 

